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EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. US-Soviet Relations and Berlin. The Berlin problem in its various aspects increasingly dominated Soviet press foreign news coverage. The general direction of press treatment was to contrast Soviet "reasonableness" with US "cold war" reactions to Soviet proposals. British press sources were cited to convey the impression of increasing readiness in some Western quarters to recognize the GDR.

Reports of possible US mobilization measures, National Guard activization, and further increases in defense spending were described as symptoms of a growing "war psychosis." US "militarist circles" were said to be trying to force the President into a position where it would be difficult for him to begin negotiations with the USSR without giving the impression that he is capitulating to Soviet demands. The proclamation of Captive Nations' Week was cited as further evidence of US "cold war" mentality, and the President was described as "following in Eisenhower's footsteps."

Secretary Rusk's July 14 statement and July 10 National Press Club speech (the latter was published in full in the weekly Za Rubezhom) were the subject of a critical Izvestiya (July 17) "Observer" article. The Secretary was described as having nothing new or constructive to say in his speeches, despite his reputation as a "man of a million ideas," but as following the old US pattern of moving from one crisis to another because of refusal to see the world as it really is in the 1960's. The Secretary was pictured as being motivated by the same considerations that led to the 1954 Indochina crisis, the 1958 Lebanon landings, and efforts to subvert the Socialist camp as in the U-2 flight. The Secretary was further said to regard negotiations with USSR as futile.

The press reported the President as saying in his July 19 press conference that the US is prepared to reach a just settlement of the German problem with its World War II allies, and as suggesting the Western 1959 Geneva proposals as a basis for negotiation. The TASS report commented that these proposals were not supported by the "other participants in the war against Germany or by the German people themselves." The President was reported to be considering the question of declaring a national emergency and activization of the National Guard.

Two British press articles, one from the Tribune and the other from the Sunday Times, advocating Western recognition of the GDR, were republished in the Soviet press during the week. The Tribune article discussed possible Western limited military action on Berlin, citing comment by Liddell Hart on Soviet conventional superiority and tactical strength in the Berlin situation. The Soviet comment on the Sunday Times article rejected the idea of a Western-controlled corridor to Berlin in exchange for recognition of the GDR.

2. Sudan and Ghana. Sudanese Premier Abboud was greeted on arrival July 17 in Moscow by Brezhnev, Mikoyan, and Furtseva (Khrushchev being out of town). He then began the familiar Moscow sightseeing and protocol

schedule for high-level visitors, interspersed with negotiations with top Soviet officials. There was little in the published record to indicate the range of likely results of the talks. Abboud's airport speech touched on anti-imperialism, Sudanese devotion to non-participation in blocs and opposition to foreign military bases on its territory. However, he avoided endorsing specific Soviet policies.

Ghanaian President Nkrumah's tour of the Soviet Union continued during the week. Judging by the press accounts, he was carrying out a heavy sightseeing schedule without being engaged in negotiation with the Soviets.

3. Congo. The Soviet press has avoided any predictions as to the results of the convening of the Congolese parliament. The meeting itself has been portrayed as a victory for Gizenga over the Leopoldville "colonialist puppets" who were, according to the Soviet version, compelled by pressure of public opinion and their weakened position to accede to Gizenga's call for resumption of parliament. While continuing to attack UN Secretary General Hammarskjold as before, the press has stressed the UN's responsibility for ensuring the safety of members of parliament. The press has also suggested that there are differences between the US and Belgium on Tshombe. The US is described as anxious that Tshombe's support be put behind the central government when Parliament reconvenes, while Belgium is said to be concerned lest Tshombe (and they themselves) be tied by parliamentary actions.

4. Ecuador-Arosmena. Although the Soviet press did not or was not able to print statements by Ecuadorean Vice President Arosmena favorable to Soviet policies or derogatory to the US during his visit in the USSR, shortly after Arosmena departed from the USSR the Soviet press carried a report that he has announced that he will form a united front in Ecuador, including communists. Arosmena was also reported as having made slighting comments about US economic aid to Latin America.

The Soviet press reported a resolution of the Communist Party of Ecuador adopted in late June critical of President Ibarra through the unusual means of using the Chinese Communist news agency Hsinhua as a source. The appearance of such criticism in the Soviet press shortly before the "goodwill" mission headed by Georgadze, Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, is reportedly scheduled to visit Ecuador suggests the Soviets are encountering difficulty in arranging the visit.

5. Laos. The Soviet press has continued to report very little about events in Laos. What news has appeared concerned the failure of a coalition government headed by Souvanna Phouma to materialize. It was claimed this was prevented by Phoumi and behind him, the US. Nothing at all was said in the papers about the Geneva Conference.

INTERNAL - POLITICAL

6. Leadership: Khrushchev has been out of the limelight since July 12--presumably resting in the south for two weeks. (See Weeka No. 29 of July 21.) However, it is expected that the Soviet leader will see the Sudanese PM sometime during the course of his visit, just as he met Ghana's Nkhruma on July 11.

Only five full members of the Presidium (there are 14) were active in Moscow: Brezhnev, Mikoyan, Furtseva and two CC secretaries, Kozlov and Mukhitdinov. Not all of the others could be presumed to be resting like Khrushchev and Suslov (who is in the Crimea). Polyanski, for example, as RSFSR "Premier" attended a Stalingrad oblast meeting on June 19 and Podgornyy as Ukrainian first secretary was helping entertain the Ghana delegation, now in Kiev.

Typically, during this Khrushchev absence it was not clear who was "in charge." Kosygin has not been active in Moscow during the absence thus far, suggesting that Mikoyan, the other First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers should be "acting"; Mikoyan's role as Soviet negotiator with the Sudanese does not dim this image. Yet the presence of party man Kozlov and "chief of state" Brezhnev was amply evident during the week and moreover, it was Minister of Culture Furtseva--and not the others--who was (by far) the most active. She attended the July 14 French National Day with her husband, N.P.Firyubin, a Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and some other mixed protocol events such as those connected with the visit of the Sudanese PM. In connection with the II International Film Festival in Moscow, she received the American Film delegation last week (July 8) and is reported subsequently to have received all of the others--no small task (there are 51 countries participating).

7. Anti-Parasite Campaign Broadened to Include Individualism and Private Property. A major campaign may be in progress to broaden the attack against parasites and speculators into a general campaign against various remaining manifestations of individualism and private ownership and enterprise in the USSR. In Kolpino (near Leningrad) at the Izhorskiy factory, a theoretical conference has been held on the theme: "Against the Remnants of the Private-Ownership Mentality." On July 19, Pravda devoted a full page to this conference. Point by point nothing was new, but the timing with respect to the coming XXII Congress suggests that some attention will be given to private ownership in the Party Program. The conference report recommends that the concept "our" should replace "my". It picked up the Khrushchev theme promoting communal dachas and boarding schools, communal garages and communal gardens as contrasted to private possession. The "conferees" were assured--burgeoise propagandists to the contrary--that communism did not repudiate personal private property "and under communism people undoubtedly would possess everything necessary to satisfy personal needs."

The RSFSR decree against "speculators" was praised and the speculation of various persons known locally denounced. More generally, action was recommended against private producers and sellers of flowers, traders in fruit raised in private gardens and milk from personally-owned cows--those who direct their lives only toward making more money. Vigorous repressive measures are justified by the assertion that these are the persons who "put the brakes on our progress toward Communism."

The next day a Pravda leader reenforced this attack against evil remnants of the past, broadening it still further by naming other general categories of social evils to be combated: "those duped by religion which still exerts a hold over some persons" and, interestingly, "against manifestations of nationalism." Pravda's leader was pointed toward propaganda work. The completeness of the campaign envisaged to accomplish the party's ends can be seen in this formulation: "Not one tiny corner in the country, not one person should remain outside of the political influence of the party."

8. The Second New First Secretary for Tula Oblast Within Ten Months. Tula Oblast First Secretary O. A. Chukanov was replaced at a July 17 oblast party plenum by I. Kh. Yunak. He had been first secretary only about ten months. Yunak was brought in from the Ukraine where (until May 24) he was Ispolkom Chairman of Dnepropetrovsk Oblast. Tula, near Krasnaya Polyana, the home of Tolstoi, has been in continuous economic and organizational difficulty for at least the last four years (See despatch No. 53 of July 18, 1961).

9. Honor: A New Play about Falsifying Production Records. The regime has permitted production of a play called "Honor," thereby using the legitimate theatre to augment its efforts to expose and condemn dishonesty. A portion of the play was published in Pravda of July 16. The action of the play takes place at the end of summer, 1960. It apparently is a not too subtle reminder of the perils of "cooking" books. (Despatch No. 52 of July 18, 1961).

10. CC Plenums in Georgia, Kirgizia, Belorussia and Azerbaydzhan. The Central press has announced Republic CC Plenums in Belorussia (July 15), Azerbaydzhan (July 16), Georgia (July 18) and Kirgizia (July 19).

The Belorussian plenum, while praising the considerable growth of agriculture in the Republic, leveled criticism at milk and butter production, the Main Administration for Direction of Sovkhozes and, for slow progress in the drainage of swampy lands (a Khrushchev-promoted project) implied criticism against the Main Administration of Melioration and Water Conservation. The plenum also set the date of the XXV Congress of the party: September 26. It is the last Republic to fix such a date (See Weeka No. 23 of June 9.)

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FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

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